

their earnings to establish their own Social Security Guarantee Account. Workers, not the government, would select where to invest their Guarantee Account funds. The assets in these accounts would grow tax-free. No withdrawals would be permitted until a worker starts receiving benefits to ensure that the money is preserved for retirement.

At retirement or when the worker becomes disabled, a portion of the Guarantee Account is paid directly to the worker and the rest is used to help pay full, guaranteed Social Security benefits. But that's not all.

In addition to the much needed improvements in benefits for women I mentioned, my plan eliminates the retirement earnings penalty for all workers age 62 and older and reduces the so-called Government Pension Offset affecting spouse and survivor benefits to certain government workers.

Other plans may cost less, because they cut benefits or raise taxes. If our goal is to pay full promised benefits, boost women's benefits, and return Social Security to financial independence, the Guarantee Plus Plan is the lowest-cost proposal to date. The Guarantee Plus Plan does all this and pays for itself over the seventy five-year actuarial period, and that's confirmed by the Social Security Administration's Office of the Actuary. Even under the most conservative estimates, the Guarantee Plus Plan allows the new Social Security system to generate surplus cash in the latter part of the century, actually adding black ink to the government's bottom line.

My plan uses general revenues to fund the accounts. Even assuming borrowing for a transitional period, my plan pays back every borrowed dollar plus interest within the seventy five-year evaluation period. Not only would we pay off the mortgage on Social Security, we would leave workers with substantial account balances and the federal government with excess cash.

The Guarantee Plus Plan also meets or exceeds all of the President's principles for reform—pays promised benefits to retirees, near-retirees, and all workers; no tax increases; no government investing; fully preserves disability and survivor benefits; offers individually controlled, voluntary personal retirement accounts that will augment Social Security. In addition, my plan is consistent with the first option to establish personal accounts recommended by the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security. My plan also accomplishes the objectives agreed to by the House during the 107th Congress to guarantee current law promised benefits, with cost-of-living adjustments to current and future retirees, without increasing taxes.

This past November, we witnessed yet another election cycle featuring Social Security as a key issue. Once again, Americans showed their willingness to explore new ideas to strengthen this vital program, since the old ways must be improved upon for future generations. Once again candidates who took a stand on ways to save Social Security not only held their own, they won. Yet, once again, not one penny has been invested in saving our nation's most successful retirement program. The result—while politicians debate, the price tag for saving Social Security only goes up and up.

From the time of Social Security's enactment until today, the history of the program's evolution has demonstrated that while every-

body has his or her own ideas on how to strengthen the program, progress toward that goal is only achieved through bipartisan cooperation. It's long past time for us to lay all our best thoughts on the table and work together to build on our success to make a stronger Social Security system that is an asset to all and not a liability to our children and grandchildren.

IN HONOR OF DR. WILLIAM
CLAIBORN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of Dr. William Claiborn during his 21 years of outstanding and dedicated service as Executive Director of the Alexandria Community Services Board and Director of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Claiborn has taken the Alexandria Community Services Board from an organization of four facilities to a nationally recognized provider serving over 4,000 Alexandrians in 63 facilities. Under his dynamic leadership, the Community Services Board has made many tremendous accomplishments. From creating a nationally recognized Sober Living Unit at the Alexandria Detention Center to establishing the Parent-Infant Education Program that assists infants with developmental disabilities and their families, Dr. Claiborn has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty to help others.

Dr. Claiborn's extraordinary commitment to improving the lives of his fellow Alexandrians, Virginians and Americans suffering from mental health problems; mental retardation and substance abuse has been a true blessing to those in need. His work in partnering with state and regional leaders led to the development of new Medicaid rules in 1989, representing a major positive change in social policy. Dr. Claiborn also spearheaded a regional cooperative effort to provide funding and carry out the discharge of people from state hospitals into the care of the Community Services Boards, where they would receive better treatment and higher quality care.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure that I recognize Dr. Claiborn today. He is a brilliant and exceptionally compassionate public servant who has devoted his life to the betterment of our society and the people of Alexandria, Virginia, a city in which he has long served. The benefits of Dr. Claiborn's tireless efforts on behalf of the less fortunate will resonate not only in the present, but throughout Alexandria's history for decades to come.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO CHARLES F.
KURFESS FOR HIS YEARS OF
DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to

an outstanding gentleman, and good friend, from Ohio. The Honorable Charles Kurfess, from Bowling Green, is retiring from his current post as Common Pleas Judge in Wood County. His retirement marks the conclusion of a distinguished career dedicated to the service of others.

Mr. Speaker, upon his graduation from Bowling Green State University in 1951, Judge Kurfess was drafted into the Army where he was assigned to the Counter Intelligence Corp. He spent thirteen months in Tokyo and then returned home to enroll in law school at The Ohio State University.

While in law school at Ohio State, Chuck was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives. After ten years as a member of the House, Judge Kurfess was elected Speaker and served in that capacity for six years.

Judge Kurfess has had a significant impact on public policy in Ohio. He has also been a strong proponent of justice during his tenure on the bench. He has reached out nationally in an attempt to improve the lives of all citizens living in this great land. This is evidenced by his service as a Past President of the National Legislative Conference (now the National Conference of State Legislatures) and his service to Presidents Nixon and Ford on the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. Serving his community, the state of Ohio and his country was not only Chuck's duty, but also his honor. These chances to give back to the public have brought him a lifetime of both personal and professional achievement. Judge Kurfess truly is a valued asset to Wood County and beyond.

Judge Kurfess has been a great resource and a true friend to everyone around him. Respected by his colleagues in the legislature and in the private sector, Chuck has shown the ability to improve the environment around him. He has been the recipient of many awards that reflect his service, to include being named the Outstanding Young Man of 1965 by the Bowling Green Jaycees, the Outstanding Freshman Representative by the Ohio Statehouse News Corp, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Bowling Green State University, and was the recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award for Contribution to Public Service from Wayne State University.

Judge Kurfess will be missed in the public arena. His wisdom, honesty and forthrightness are attributes to which all public servants should aspire. He has set an example for everyone on how to live a life of service, putting the greater interests of the community before one's own.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Judge Charles F. Kurfess. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Charles, who care about their well being and stability. We wish Judge Kurfess, his wife Helyn and their three children all the best as we pay tribute to one of our nation's finest citizens.